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FROM: Austria, Vienna

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SOURCE: []

SOURCE, OPERATIONAL DATA, AND COMMENTS:

For the RI Main Index: Fritz *MOLDEN []
Wolfgang *PPAUNDLER

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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

GRADING OF SOURCE: A: Completely reliable. B: Usually reliable. C: Fairly reliable. D: Not usually reliable. E: Not reliable. (Applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F: Reliability cannot be judged (Applied to untested or insufficiently tested sources).

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COUNTRY Austria
REPORT NO. EAV-8135
SUBJECT Background of the Wolfgang Pfandler Case
DATE OF REPORT 20 April 1962
NO. PAGES 1
REFERENCES 0

DATE OF INFO. 20 April 1962
PLACE & DATE ACQ. Austria, Vienna (20 April 1962)

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE

With contacts in South Tyrolean extremist circles and in the Austrian government.
Appraisal of Content: 2. (B).

1. Fritz Molden, the former publisher of Vienna's Die Presse and a great partisan of the South Tyrolean cause, had not yet as of 20 April 1962 been called as a witness in the court proceedings against the Innsbruck extremist, Wolfgang Pfandler. Shortly after the wave of arrests of members of the South Tyrol conspiracy, Molden was invited to the Vienna State Police Office by its chief, Dr. Oswald Peterlunger. The interview lasted several hours, at the end of which a protocol was made and reviewed by Molden. Since that time Molden has had no further invitation from the authorities.

2. The defense attorney for Pfandler has been in touch with Molden and may call him as a witness if the Pfandler case is raised to the political level. The general view, shared by Socialist Justice Minister Christian Broda, is that the case should be prosecuted at the lowest criminal level and that Pfandler should serve a few months for the illegal possession of arms and explosives. However, there are elements within the government, from both parties, who wish to push the case as a sop to the Italians. If this group prevails and Broda is unable to postpone the case any longer, the defense will be forced to call Molden and ask him to testify that the conspirators were in close touch with Foreign Minister Bruno Kreisky and State Secretary Ludwig Steiner every step of the way. Every effort is being made by knowledgeable persons to avoid the issue, but if Pfandler is threatened with a lengthy sentence his friends and associates will stand by him.

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